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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended
Working Group on Technology Transfer
and Cooperation
23-25 February 1994

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Overview of the current situation and trends relating to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

3. Access to information on environmentally sound technologies.

4. Institutional capabilities and capacity-building.

5. Financial arrangements and technological partnership.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its first session the Commission on Sustainable Development decided to prepare for the discussion at its second session through the establishment of an inter-sessional, ad hoc, open-ended working group, for a trial period of one year, to be composed of Governments that will nominate experts to assist in the task of assessing and suggesting specific measures to support and promote access

to and transfer of technology, as indicated in paragraph 34.18 of Agenda 21, in particular subparagraphs (a) and (e), and, on the basis of the above, in the development of the policy framework, to facilitate, promote and finance technology transfer, particularly in relation to the sectoral clusters under consideration (see E/1993/25/Add.1, para. 50).

The Commission also called upon its Bureau to coordinate the work of the working group, as well as the inputs from other experts. The Commission itself, it was agreed, would decide on the agenda and procedures for the working group, which would report on its findings to the Commission (see E/1993/25/Add.1, para. 50).

Pursuant to those decisions, the Bureau, in developing this provisional agenda, has held consultations with all States members of the Commission and has considered inputs from several sources, in particular the proceedings of both the Oslo Workshop on the Transfer and Development of Environmentally Sound Technologies, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Norway and held from 13 to 15 October 1993, and the Cartagena Meeting on the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, organized by the Governments of the United States of America and Colombia and held from 17 to 19 November 1993.

The Working Group, after the election of its officers, will adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Item 2. Overview of the current situation and trends relating to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies

The current situation and trends could be viewed in the context of the enabling environment necessary for technology transfer; market conditions and their relationship to terms of trade; investments and intellectual property rights; the role of the private and public sectors in technology transfer; and ways to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies that are both privately and publicly owned, as well as those that lie within the public domain. Attention could also be given to the most effective means of disseminating information on new technologies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1994/2)

Compendium of reference materials (background document)

Item 3. Access to information on environmentally sound technologies

Information constraints are seen as a real and potential threat to technology transfer which can be most effectively overcome through more collaborative initiatives between Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Efforts to promote access to information on environmentally sound technologies could be examined, with particular reference to three issues:

(a) Information on technologies that are privately owned, publicly owned and in the public domain, including state-of-the-art technologies;

(b) Priority needs of the developing countries;

(c) New initiatives, including data banks, referral systems, information systems, clearing-houses and technology centres.

The discussion could also be put in the context of the sectoral clusters for the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1994/2)

Compendium of reference materials (background document)

Item 4. Institutional capabilities and capacity-building

Local capabilities are needed as an integrated part of a broader agenda for sound economic growth and structural change. Particular attention could be given in the discussion to the following:

(a) An assessment of needs in developing countries;

(b) Enhancement of capacities to transfer, adapt and manage technology, including technology assessment, human resource development, education and training, and research and development.

The discussion could also be put in the context of the sectoral clusters for the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Documentation

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Compendium of reference materials (background document)

Item 5. Financial arrangements and technological partnership

In view of the stagnation of official financial flows and the apparent absence of "new and additional financial resources", new financial mechanisms and means have to be explored and encouraged in order to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The discussion could consider both removing barriers to and providing incentives for new modes of financing and technological partnership and could include the following:

(a) Consideration of present programmes and mechanisms;

(b) Innovative arrangements.

The discussion could also be put in the context of the sectoral clusters for the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technology transfer, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1994/2)

Compendium of reference materials (background document)

Item 6. Other matters

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

In accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session, the Working Group will report on its findings to the Commission at its second session.